

REMARKS

The Office Action of February 11, 2008, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. A one month petition for extension of time is included herewith.

Claims 1-22, and 24-27 are pending and stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swift 6,265,046 B1 in view of Swift 5,354,607.

In response, Applicants traverse the rejections, and have amended claims 1, 7 and 22 and canceled claim 6 herein. Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-22 and 24-27 as these claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Support for the amendments, for example, is in Figure 5 and pages 9-10 of the specification. Reference is made to Figure 5 illustrating embodiments of conductive contacts such as contact 18 including profiles internal to the substrate 12. Combinations of the profiles internal to the substrate 12 are envisioned. The contacts 18 may be cut or sculpted into a variety of shapes including flat, angular, convex, concave, stepped, irregular, or combination surfaces at the ends or exposed portions of selected contacts. Fibrillated fibers that are flexible may be formed on the contact at selected regions. Support for the amendments can also be found in Figure 9 which depicts an example of a connector with an opening.

The combination of conductive fiber ends located inside at least one of the plurality of recesses and conductive fiber ends extending from at least one of the plurality of recesses and a connector member being tubular and including an opening extending from the outside periphery surface to the inside periphery surface, as claimed in independent claims 1 and 22, are believed to patentable.

The claims advantageously provide, for example, improvements in conductive contact surface internal and external to a connector as respectively claimed.

In summary, the provided limitations as claimed, as a whole, in the pending claims 1-5, 7-22, 24-27 are believed patentable.

Applicants respectfully requests a telephonic interview in order to advance the application in the event that the Examiner does not provide a notice of allowance of the pending claims 1-5, 7-22, 24-27.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby authorized to call Andrew D. Ryan, at Telephone Number 585-422-8085, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

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